

STATE CAPITOL
P.O. BOX 942849
SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0004
(916) 319-2004

DISTRICT OFFICE
3300 DOUGLAS BLVD., #430
ROSEVILLE, CA 95661
(916) 774-4430

WEB
WWW.ASSEMBLY.CA.GOV/LESLIE

Assembly
California Legislature



TIM LESLIE
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FOURTH DISTRICT
September 1, 2004

COMMITTEES:
Vice Chair, WATER, PARKS & WILDLIFE
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS,
TOURISM & INTERNET MEDIA
BANKING & FINANCE
ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY & TOXIC MATERIALS
RULES

SELECT COMMITTEES:
CALIFORNIA WINE
CALIFORNIA'S FOREIGN TRADE OFFICES
CANCER DETECTION, PREVENTION & RESEARCH
CYBERFRAUD

JOINT COMMITTEES:
DEVELOP A MASTER PLAN TO END POVERTY IN CA.
FAIRS ALLOCATION & CLASSIFICATION

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor
State of California
State Capitol, First Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

I respectfully request your veto of Assembly Bill 2343 (Nation), which will burden schools with the cost of installing unnecessary sprinkler systems.

Protecting our children is our number one priority, and I commend the author for seeking ways to ensure our children are safe at school. However, this measure is inappropriate and will make the difficult job of providing a good education to California children even more difficult.

Aside from equipment and installation costs for sprinklers, a district could incur very large costs for utility upgrades, replacement of water pipes, and maintaining the system. Districts have been complaining for some time that state modernization funding already is inadequate. This bill makes that situation even worse.

Schools are struggling despite the increase in funds the state has committed to education. Making schools invest in sprinklers will result in very little benefit compared to the cost. No child has been killed or injured by a school fire in this state, and the cost of water damage caused by sprinklers could outweigh the damage done by the fire.

State mandates often have the disastrous effect of tackling a complex issue, like the safety of our schools, and applying a one-size-fits-all solution to the problem. School districts are perfectly capable of making the right decisions that best fits their needs.

Again, I respectfully request that you veto AB 2343. Thank you for your kind consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Leslie".

TIM LESLIE
Assemblyman, Fourth District

TL: kto